

Mr. Bruce Hanson
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Mr. Bruce Hanson
Oppenheimer Wolf & Donnelly
Plaza VII, Suite 3300
45 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1609

Re: Application of City of Hutchinson (Hutchinson Utilities Commission)
For Pipeline Routing Permit and Partial Exemption
EQB Docket No. 02-33-PRP-HUC

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Thank you for your letter of September 5, 2002, identifying the three alternative routes the City of Hutchinson will evaluate and gather information on equivalent to the information provided for the City's proposed route.

The only other possible routing alternative that might be worthwhile to investigate is some changes to the City's preferred route south of the Minnesota River. It might be possible to follow half section lines, property lines, or rights-of-way in certain segments between the southern terminal and the Minnesota River. For example, there might be opportunity to follow these features between Mile Post 42 and 46. We would appreciate it if you would conduct a preliminary review of this option and advise us of any alternatives that you believe merit further study.

I have discussed the possibility of some route changes on the southern half of the line with Carey Remus, who, along with Doug Proehl, met with landowners in the area to discuss the possibility of alternative routes. However, those groups of interested landowners have not contacted Mr. Remus with any alternative routes since their initial meeting approximately two weeks ago. Recognizing the significance of the timing is sue, I contacted Mr. Remus today and suggested that if any other route proposal south of the Minnesota River is going to be considered for evaluation, it must be identified by September 23rd. This suggestion was acceptable to Mr. Remus and he will contact that group of interested farmers. I will let you know if Mr. Remus and other landowners identify any specific alternative routes they would like to see evaluated and whether EQB staff believes evaluation would be worthwhile.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience (e-mail: larry.hartman@state.mn.us) at 651-296-5089. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Hartman
EQB Staff

cc: Alan Mitchell
Bob Patton
Carey Remus
Doug Proehl
John Webster
Patrick Spethman
Phillip McLean